1. (amended) An interactive device for use in conjunction with a computer display apparatus and a fixed surface, comprising:

a stylus including a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis, and a vertical axis;

[means] a mechanical linkage [supportable on] coupled to a fixed surface and coupled to said stylus for supporting said stylus while allowing at least [a plurality of] five degrees of freedom in the motion of said stylus, said [means for] mechanical linkage providing a user the ability to manipulate the orientation and location of said stylus in three-dimensional space, including providing said stylus with the ability to rotate along said longitudinal axis, to revolve about its lateral axis, to turn about its vertical axis, and to translate along at least two other axes relative to said fixed surface; and

not patentably distinct

new issues

means for repeatedly producing an interactive stylus locative signal which on command by a user is responsive to and corresponding with the position and movement of the stylus at any point in time during its normal operation, said stylus locative signal providing information about the orientation, [and] location, and movement of said stylus for use by a computer display apparatus to position and move an object implemented by said computer display apparatus in accordance with said orientation, location, and movement of said stylus.

new issues

Please cancel claim 2 without prejudice.

3. (amended) A device as recited in Claim 1 [2] wherein said stylus locative signal means is in communication with said mechanical linkage.

4. A device as recited in Claim 1 wherein said stylus locative signal means is in communication with said stylus.

5. A device as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

a remote unit having switch capable of being in an on state and an off state; and

command means triggered by said switch when said switch is in its on state for generating a command signal for receipt by a computer.

6. A device as recited in Claim 5 wherein said remote unit is a foot pedal unit.

7. (amended) A device as recited in Claim [2] 1 wherein said mechanical linkage includes at least three joints.

8. (amended) A device as recited in Claim [2] 1 wherein said mechanical linkage includes three individual components.

9. A device as recited in Claim 1 further comprising means for providing resistance to the motion of the stylus.

10. A device as recited in Claim 1 wherein said stylus has pencil-like configuration which can be manually manipulated.

11. (amended) A device as recited in Claim 1 further comprising:

feedback means for generating a force on said stylus by said [support means] mechanical linkage in response to force signals provided to said device, said force signals correlated to information displayed on computer display apparatus.

12. (amended) A method for interactively interfacing a user and a computer display apparatus, comprising the steps of:

providing a stylus including a longitudinal axis, a lateral axis and a vertical axis;

coupling to said stylus a [support apparatus supportable on] mechanical linkage coupled to a fixed surface for supporting said stylus while allowing at least [a plurality of] five degrees of freedom in the motion of said stylus, said [support apparatus] mechanical linkage for providing a user the ability to manipulate the orientation and location of said stylus in three-dimensional space, said at least five degrees of freedom including rotation of said stylus along its longitudinal axis, revolution of said stylus about its lateral axis, turning of said stylus about its vertical axis, and translation of said stylus along at least two other axes relative to said fixed surface; and

providing means for repeatedly producing an interactive stylus locative signal which on command by a user is responsive to and corresponding with the position and movement of the stylus at any point in time during its normal operation, said stylus locative signal providing information about the orientation and location of said stylus for use by a computer display apparatus to position and move an object implemented by said computer display apparatus in accordance with the location, orientation, and movement of said stylus.

Please cancel claim 13.

14. A method as recited in Claim 13 wherein said stylus locative signal means is in communication with said mechanical linkage.

15. (amended) A method as recited in Claim [12] 13 wherein said stylus locative signal means is in communication with said stylus.

16. (amended) A method as recited in Claim [12] 13 further comprising the steps of:

providing a remote unit having switch capable of being in an on state and an off state; and

providing a command signal generator triggered by said switch when said switch is in its on state for generating a command signal for receipt by a computer.

17. A method as recited in Claim 16 wherein said remote unit is a foot pedal unit.

18. A method as recited in Claim 13 wherein said mechanical linkage includes three individual components.

19. A method as recited in Claim 13 wherein said mechanical linkage includes at least three joints.

20. (amended) A method as recited in Claim [12] 13 further comprising means for providing resistance to the motion of the stylus.

21. (amended) A method as recited in Claim [12] 13 wherein said stylus has pencil-like configuration which can be manually manipulated.

22. (amended) A [device] method as recited in Claim [12] 13 further comprising the steps of:

providing feedback means for generating force by said [support apparatus] mechanical linkage on said stylus in response to force signals provided to said [device] mechanical linkage, said force signals correlated to information displayed on computer display apparatus.

Please cancel claims 27 and 28 without prejudice.

29. (amended) A device as recited in Claim 1 wherein said [means supportable on a fixed surface and coupled to said stylus] mechanical linkage provides said stylus with six degrees of freedom.

30. (amended) A method as recited in Claim [12] 13 wherein said [support apparatus] mechanical linkage provides said stylus six degrees of freedom.

31. (amended) A [method] device as recited in claim 27 wherein said means supportable on a fixed surface and coupled to said stylus provides the ability to track said motion capabilities of said stylus by appropriately placed sensors.

32. A method as recited in Claim 28 wherein said means supportable on a fixed surface and coupled to said stylus provides the ability to track said motion capabilities of said stylus by appropriately placed sensors.